

Bikes for Africa

PO Box 56538 Brightwood Station, Washington D.C. 20011

MOZAMBIQUE LOW COST VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Most people in Mozambique get around by foot. This has more than just economic and social costs, since adequate mobility can literally make the difference between life and death. For want of vehicles, health posts are left without drugs, mobile vaccinations campaigns are not carried out, the sick are not transferred to clinics and accommodation centers are not visited. In many districts, food distribution is hampered by lack of transport, as is reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Bikes for Africa, a new project designed to help government and private development groups overcome their transport problems, is promoting new lightweight, low cost forms of human powered vehicles, such as all-terrain bicycles and trailers, to help alleviate this problem.

Although there has been an attempt to provide motorbikes for relief and development workers, in practice this is unrealistic: lack of money for the purchase of the machines plus problems with maintenance, repair and supply of fuel, lubricants and spare parts make it unlikely this approach can be sustained.

Bicycles are cheap to buy, easy to maintain, require little in the way of lubrication and nothing in the way of fuel. New kinds of bicycles and load carrying vehicles can be especially useful in transporting personnel and products, even over difficult terrain. They are ideal for the delivery of food, clothes, drugs and dressing materials and even for use as an ambulance. With a history of their use, there is a ready acceptance of bicycles for transport and cargo carrying as well as their ability to create jobs, reduce drudgery, increase communications and enhance mobility.

In secure areas there are major opportunities to help meet transport needs of emergency relief and development efforts. As effective as are current humanitarian relief efforts, low cost vehicles can complete at the village end the physical job now left to the backs and heads of recipients.

Bikes for Africa is seeking support for assembly, repair, load carrying accessories production and maintenance centers in existing bicycle repair centers. The centers' mechanics' skills will be enhanced, and operations improved to handle assembly and vital follow-up repairs. The project also intends to import all-terrain bicycles as well as construct load-carrying vehicles.

There is unanimous support for this project by Mozambican government officials, non government officials, US and other embassy personnel. What is needed now are the funds to make it a reality. Write: Bikes for Africa, PO Box 56538, Washington DC 20011 or call 301/589-1810 or C.P. 794 Maputo R.P. Mozambique



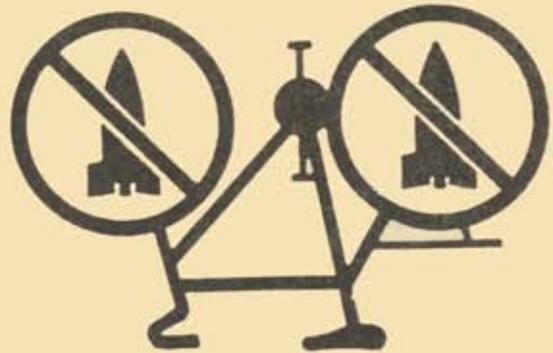


Kornam: "The Struggle Continues"

"The women carry the 100-pound sacks on top of their heads because there is no gasoline for Inhaminga's only truck."

Washington Post, 24 January 1988

SEND BIKES
TO NOT BOMBS
TO MOZAMBIQUE!



Bikes For Africa
PO Box 56538
Washington DC 20011

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Send Bikes Not Bombs To Mozambique!

Transportation is one of the major hurdles facing us in our efforts to develop Mozambique. To change this situation, low cost vehicles like bicycles and cargo-carrying carts would be an enormous help to us. I certainly support your efforts.

--Valeriano Ferrao, Ambassador of Mozambique to U.S.

MOZAMBIQUE: A FRONT-LINE STATE, A FRONT-LINE WAR

With its border on South Africa, Mozambique is on the front line of the struggles of the African people. South Africa's apartheid regime funds RENAMO, terrorists who massacre civilians with shocking brutality. Nearly 500 health posts and 40 percent of schools have been destroyed, setting back government efforts to improve health and education. Attacks on civilians have led to widespread famine, according to Band Aid's Bob Geldoff, threatening half of Mozambique's 13 million people.

Travel between cities is next to impossible. Even in secure zones, relief and development workers have no means of transportation, other than walking for hours each day often carrying huge loads.

Mozambique has greatly improved relations with the West, which has responded with major relief and economic assistance efforts. The US Government has strongly endorsed Mozambique's steps toward economic change and is the largest emergency aid donor.

BIKES FOR AFRICA

Beyond immediate relief Mozambique must have sustainable means of development. For transportation sturdy, up-to-date bikes and carts, which can traverse sandy soil and carry heavy loads, top the list.

Bikes for Africa sends new and reconditioned bicycles, along with tools, training and technical assistance to build, repair and maintain bicycles and cargo carrying vehicles.

Eric Schulman, who leads the Bikes For Africa effort in Mozambique, provides key direct support to devise and implement improved low-cost transportation. Working with Bikes for Africa toward this goal are the Ministries of Housing and Transport, the World Bank, the US-based Volunteers in Technical Assistance and American Jewish World Service.

Bikes for Africa is part of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, which also sponsors the Bikes Not Bombs Campaign for Nicaragua and the Haitian Development Fund and works to promote sustainable, low-cost transportation throughout the developing world.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

A bicycle can quadruple the productivity of a health worker, and that might make the difference between life and death. Help us address the mobility needs of Mozambique's desperate poor.

o Organize a Bikes for Africa group in your community, church, or neighborhood. Write for shipping instructions listing vitally needed parts.

o Become involved in solidarity groups such as Mozambique Support Network and expand the opposition to destabilization policies of South Africa.

o Make a contribution to Bikes for Africa:

--\$20 pays for the shipping of one box of spare parts

--\$50 puts two health workers on bikes with new tires and parts

--\$200 pays for an all-terrain bicycle and cart to give a women's gardening cooperative transport tools for marketing their products.



YES! I want to help send Bikes Not Bombs to Mozambique.

Send me information on how to donate bikes and parts

I want to volunteer with:
 bike repair
 transport of bikes
 media/public outreach
 preparing shipments

I want to show my support with a tax-deductible contribution:

\$50 \$30 \$200 \$100
 \$20 Other

Here's \$5 for a jar of rich Mozambican cashew butter

Send information on the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

Put me on your mailing list

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to:
Bikes For Africa
PO Box 56538
Washington DC 20011

Phone: 301/589-1810